

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 524  
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the life and valiant military service of United States Marine John Wisdom Holland.

WHEREAS, from time to time, our venerable Nation has given birth to great men whose numerous deeds of valor and honor stand as self-evident, leaving no need for reiteration of the details of their heroic service; and

WHEREAS, in the annals of United States military history, there have been few men of the august stature of John "Jack" Wisdom Holland, who served valiantly with the United States Marines during World War II; and

WHEREAS, born in Jackson, Tennessee, on December 25, 1919, Jack Holland was the son of William, Sr. and Lorraine Allen Wisdom Holland; and

WHEREAS, Jack Holland attended Alexander Elementary School and Jackson Junior High School, graduating from Jackson High School in 1936 as valedictorian; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holland then attended Davidson College where he majored in English and edited the college yearbook; he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated cum laude in 1940; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Jack Holland voluntarily enlisted in the United States Marines and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in July of 1941; and

WHEREAS, Second Lieutenant Holland became platoon leader of Bravo Company, First Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, and participated in the combat assault beach landing on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1942, Second Lieutenant Holland was wounded during tenacious combat, and he was evacuated to an United States Army Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand; and

WHEREAS, because of faulty communications, the Holland family received a report stating Jack Holland was “missing in action,” but a second report confirmed that he was recovering in an United States Army Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Jack Holland was awarded the Silver Star Medal by Admiral William F. Halsey, Naval Commander of the Pacific, for, “his heroic spirit of self-sacrifice maintained with utter disregard for personal safety in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service”; and

WHEREAS, the official citation praised Lieutenant Holland for “gallantry and intrepidity” while serving with the First Marine Division during action against enemy Japanese forces on the Solomon Islands on November 1, 1942,” and Jack Holland was promoted to First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Holland rejoined the First Marine Division during assault landings and jungle warfare on Cape Gloucester, New Britain, as Bravo Company 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Commander and fought valiantly for several months during intense enemy activity; and

WHEREAS, Jack Holland was promoted to Captain after displaying uncommon bravery at Cape Gloucester; and

WHEREAS, in 1944 the First Marine Division was stationed at a rest camp and training site at Pavuvu Island during which time Captain Holland attended a U.S.O. show by Bob Hope; and

WHEREAS, unofficial military records reveal that Captain Jack Holland wrote letters to the families of two marines who were killed in combat under his command; and

WHEREAS, Captain Holland and the First Marine Division departed Pavuvu on October 15, 1944, to conduct combat assault landings on Peleliu Island in the Palau Islands; and

WHEREAS, during battle, Captain Holland captured a strategic enemy machine gun mortar base for which he was awarded the Navy Cross; and

WHEREAS, returning home and being released from active duty on October 1, 1945, Jack Holland remained in the Marine Corps Reserve until his retirement as Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holland returned to Jackson, Tennessee, and worked for his family's retail business; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Holland was named Jaycee Young Man of the Year (1948) for his service in Rotary, Elks, the Civic Music Association, the Retail Credit Bureau, Theater Guild, Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Chest; and

WHEREAS, a Sunday school teacher and youth chair leader, Jack Holland faithfully served his local church for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman and entrepreneur, Mr. Holland opened a movie theater in the Old Hickory Mall in 1967 and was named President of the Mall's Merchant Association; he was also nicknamed, "Mayor of the Mall"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Jack Holland was named Exchange Club Man of the Year (1984) for his numerous hours of community service; and

WHEREAS, Jack Holland was a military hero, an exceptional public servant, a faithful Christian, and a devoted family man; and

WHEREAS, passing away in 1991, Mr. Holland was survived by his lovely wife, Harriet Benton Holland; son, William Benton "Bill" Holland; Lucy Wilkerson "Cissy" Holland and Harriet Jean "Jeanie" Sweat; and

WHEREAS, a true military hero, Jack Holland served to protect the noble ideals of freedom and liberty, and his life of community and civic service is a testament to his virtuous character; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to remember and commemorate Jack Holland's life of commitment and service to the good citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commemorate the life and valiant military service of Colonel John Wisdom Holland, United States Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.